

Masthead Logo

The Iowa Review

Volume 4
Issue 4 *Fall*

Article 31

1973

Northwind Escarpment

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Recommended Citation

Dubie, Norman. "Northwind Escarpment." *The Iowa Review* 4.4 (1973): 63-63. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.1554>

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NORMAN DUBIE was born in 1945, and has taught in the Writers Workshop at The University of Iowa for the last four years. His first book of poems, *Alehouse Sonnets*, was published in 1971. His second book, *The Illustrations*, will be released by Braziller in winter, 1974.

NORTHWIND ESCARPMENT

I believe you, by degrees
the deer are being eaten in the lodges.
You saw the claws in the bedding. And
this:

my daughter and I
in a museum of stuffed animals looking
for a cardinal, that specific bird;
with no luck, leaving the museum
at the exit a small exhibit behind glass:

a screech owl with part of a cardinal
in its mouth. So I asked her not to cry,
and the guard explained that inside
the owl there was nothing but sawdust
and

wire and part of a specific red bird inside
of which there was nothing but sawdust and wire.
She stopped crying by degrees
the deer are being eaten in the lodges.

AFRICA

I expand my chest for the children.

There are no longer the floors
that are ceilings. There is the stone room;
and in the center of the room
I train gladiators, the breeze
from their iron nets releasing me